

HALIFAX metro



NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Debt floods watering hole

Hart & Thistle owner 'gutted' by decision to close doors of the waterfront gastropub **PAGE 3**

From '70s rock to modern pop to Halifax stop ...

Busy band Chicago making time for local fans — of any generation **PAGE 15**

Hedge(hog) your bets and say later to your gator

Day 2: We're not monkeying around — exotic pets can be lethal **PAGES 10-11**

3 TO WATCH IN SOCHI

- 9:30 a.m. Jennifer Jones' rink has chance to win Canada's first women's curling gold since '98.
- 1 p.m. Canada vs. U.S. for women's hockey gold.
- 1:30 p.m. Rosalind Groenewoud will go for the inaugural gold in women's ski halfpipe. **GREG DOWNS/FOR METRO**



SLIDING INTO GOLD

Heather Moyse, left, and Kaillie Humphries of Canada celebrate during the flower ceremony after winning the gold medal during the women's bobsled on Day 12 of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics at the Sanki Sliding Center on Wednesday. The gold medal was Canada's fifth of the Games. Story, page 20. **ALEX LIVESEY/GETTY IMAGES**

Disappearance now suspicious

Loretta Saunders.
Halifax woman's car found in Ont.; 2 arrested



Loretta Saunders HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE

Two people who knew Loretta Saunders have been charged with possession of a stolen vehicle after the missing Halifax woman's car was found in Ontario.

Police are now considering Saunders' disappearance suspicious, and the Halifax Regional Police/RCMP major crime unit are handling the case after her car was found in Harrow, a town near Windsor.

"We are looking for sightings," said police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages.

"Although there are suspicious circumstances, this is still a missing person investigation."

Metro has learned Blake Leggette, 25, and Victoria Henneberry, 28, both were arraigned in court on Wednesday afternoon to face charges of possession of a stolen vehicle and failure to appear in court.

Henneberry was wanted in a case where she was accused of uttering threats in January 2011 but it did not involve Saunders, said Bourdages.

Leggette's warrant was issued from Calgary.

Bourdages said both knew Saunders, but could not say what the relationship was. They were last known to be living in Halifax.

Saunders, a Saint Mary's University student, was reported missing by her family on Monday. She was last seen in the Cowie Hill area in Halifax in the morning of February 13.

Forensic investigators were at Saunders' apartment Wednesday processing evidence

from her last place of residence, Bourdages said, which is normal in a suspicious disappearance.

There are only "limited details" since the investigation is ongoing, Bourdages said.

"We're still focusing on getting people to help us."

Delilah Terriak, Saunders' sister, started a Facebook group Tuesday and flew to Halifax this week from British Columbia to join with her family in the search.

Terriak said on Facebook she will be putting up missing posters around Halifax, and is urging people to use the hashtag #findloretta on social media.

Police are asking anyone who may have seen Saunders or her car since Feb. 13 to come forward. The car is a Toyota Celica bearing the Newfoundland and Labrador plate HCP 543.

Saunders is described as an Inuk woman with fair skin, five-foot-seven, about 120 pounds with light brown straight hair.

HALEY RYAN/METRO

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policing foundations

Shuttered schools

Snow days all over the map

It all comes down to location for Nova Scotia students when it comes to snow days.

Some students in Cape Breton have missed nine days of school while most in HRM have missed only two.

The Annapolis Valley and Chignecto regional school boards have been closed for six days so far this winter and the Cape Breton Victoria Regional School Board has been closed for nine.

The Strait Regional School Board has had 7.5 days of closure including Wednesday, due to bad weather or road conditions, while the Halifax Regional School Board has had two days where all of its schools were closed.

Deanna Gillis, communications manager for the Strait board, said the number of days missed is higher than last year, but not by much.

"February has been a very heavy storm month," said Gillis.

As for Halifax, board spokesman Doug Hadley said that select schools in the outlying areas of the municipality have been closed more often than those in the city, which is not out of the ordinary.

He said students in the downtown core rely mostly on walking or their parents to get to school instead of buses, which makes it easier for students in bad weather.

"Most live within walking distance to their school," said Hadley. "Road conditions tend to be cleared earlier than in outlying areas."

DESERIE MURPHY/METRO

Stormy days

Will it ever end?

Halgionians awoke to more snow on Wednesday and Thursday it appears the weather du jour will be freezing rain.

Overnight Wednesday and into Thursday, snow and freezing rain are in the forecast, with all of HRM under a freezing rain warning by Environment Canada.

If the weather comes as forecast, it will be the 38th bad-weather event of the season.

METRO



Kemble Flynn answers questions from her primary class at École Grosvenor Wentworth Park School in January 2013. JEFF HARPER/METRO FILE

Former Lt. Gov to lead review panel

Education. Changes could be implemented as early as the start of the next school year

A review of Nova Scotia's education system could result in changes as early as the next school year, Education Minister Karen Casey said Wednesday as she announced the appointment of a former lieutenant governor to lead the exercise.

Casey named Myra Freeman as head of the panel that will look at everything from the curriculum and technology in classrooms to how long students should be in school.

She said the broad examination will take in all grades from Primary to 12 and panel consultations will start in April.

"What we're looking at is what we deliver and how we deliver it and it will touch on a variety of things and concerns I am hearing," Casey said when asked about possible changes to



Myra Freeman at a news conference in Halifax on Wednesday.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

the academic year. "There's nothing off the table."

Freeman, who served as lieutenant governor from 2000 to 2006 and was a teacher for more than 25 years, will work with five other panel members to gather input from people across the province on the system's strengths and weaknesses.

It's expected they will use online surveys and in-person consultations to gather feedback.

Freeman said it's a wide-ranging undertaking that could result in thousands of submissions covering a multitude of issues, all of

which have to be submitted to the minister by October.

"We may get 5,000 responses. We don't know but I don't think we're afraid of that," she said. "We just know it's a big bite out of an apple."

It is the first time in 25 years that the province has conducted such a review, which is expected to include short- and long-term changes that could be introduced late in 2014. Casey said most of the proposed changes would take effect the following year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Who's who

The panel is made up of a retired teacher, a school advisory council member, a parent and a Rhodes Scholar.

- A partners' advisory group consisting of teachers, school boards and universities, among others, will assist the panel.

HRSB

Chair 'very pleased'

The chair of the Halifax Regional School Board says he's happy to see the new education review panel will have a wide-reaching mandate.

Gin Yee said Wednesday he's "very pleased" that former lieutenant governor and teacher Myra Freeman was named to head the panel that will review Nova Scotia's public education system.

"She's been involved with schools in the Halifax area," Yee said. "I think it was a great choice."

Yee said a complete review is needed, and liked that Education Minister Karen Casey and the panel seemed to have the mindset of not just throwing everything out, but inspecting the system and keeping things that make a positive impact. **HALEY RYAN/METRO**

Tapped out: Hart & Thistle Gastropub closes down

Shuttering. Owner says he's 'gutted' by the decision, but had no choice

GEORDON OMAND
halifax@metronews.ca

After five years of business on the Halifax waterfront, the Hart & Thistle Gastropub & Brewery is closing.

"It's been a long time coming," said owner and longtime restaurateur Bruce Keith.

"At the end of the day I have to do what's best for my family and my extended family here at the Hart and Thistle," he added.

"This is the right decision."

The Hart & Thistle was located in Historic Properties on Lower Water Street, with a large patio overlooking the harbour.

Keith said the reason for the closure was "no question" due to the unsustainable debt load he took on after closing another restaurant venture and while preparing the Hart & Thistle space for opening in 2009.

"The debt isn't structured well. It's high interest," he said. "It just got to the point where it's pulling us backwards so fast that we can't get ahead."

Staff were told of the closure on Tuesday night during a meeting at the restaurant. On Wednesday morning, the

Quoted



"We needed a real big summer last year to turn the corner, but we didn't get it."

Bruce Keith, Owner of Hart & Thistle Gastropub and Brewery

gastropub announced on its Facebook page that they were done.

Keith said he felt "gutted" by the decision to close the restaurant's doors.

"I've been pushing the ball uphill for a long time."

He cited a number of other contributing factors in the closing, including low foot traffic.

"If you have a business on the waterfront it's a hard scrape through the winter months," said Gordon Stewart, head of the province's restaurant association.

"I'm actually quite shocked," he said of hearing about the Hart & Thistle's shutting down.

Despite the closure, Keith did not blame the restaurant's location.

"This is a great spot," said Keith. "It will work. It does work. It just needs someone to come in with a clean debt line and the place makes money out of the box."

"Someone's going to get very lucky with a restaurant here."



The inside of the Hart & Thistle pub and eatery, which is no longer an option for customers in downtown Halifax. GEORDON OMAND/FOR METRO

Industry woes

N.S. bars, restaurants face uphill climb

Nova Scotia's restaurants and bars are still struggling to recover to 2010 business levels, according

to the head of the province's restaurant association.

"The food and beverage industry has been very challenged since business slowed down over the last three or four years," said Gordon Stewart.

Stewart blamed the downturn on an economic slump and a drop in tour-

ism numbers.

According to Stewart, the food and beverage market takes two-and-half times longer to bounce back than any other sector.

"The first thing (consumers) cut out is not the new TV."

They stop going out to eat and drink, he said.

To illustrate the industry's downturn, Stewart said liquor beverage sales in Nova Scotia restaurants and bars have dropped by \$13.4 million over the past decade.

Nearly 10 per cent of that was in Halifax alone.

"That takes a huge slice out of the bottom line," he said. GEORDON OMAND/FOR METRO



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Hate crime? Preliminary hearing for man accused in stabbing rescheduled

A preliminary hearing for a Nova Scotia man charged in a stabbing last fall that paralyzed another man has been rescheduled for April.

Shane Edward Matheson of Trenton is charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault, assault with a weapon and possession of a dangerous weapon.

The 19-year-old man was arrested following an attack in downtown New Glasgow in the early morning hours of Oct. 12.

The stabbing left the 27-year-old victim, Scott Jones of New Glasgow, paralyzed from the waist down.

Members of Jones's family



Shane Edward Matheson
NEW GLASGOW NEWS

have said they believe he was targeted because he is gay, but police have said there is no evidence to support that claim.

The two-day preliminary hearing has now been set for April 9-10 in Pictou.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Robin's Donuts. Woman hit by truck in parking lot

An 82-year-old woman was hit by a pickup truck backing out of a parking space at a Dartmouth doughnut shop Wednesday afternoon.

The accident happened at about 3 p.m. at the Robin's Donuts location at 303 Prince Albert Rd. The vehicle, driven

by a 41-year-old man, knocked the woman to the ground while she walked through the parking lot.

The victim was taken to hospital to be treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Police continue to investigate. METRO

Apparent stabbing. Victim unco-operative in police investigation

A 26-year-old woman is in hospital following an apparent stabbing in Halifax.

Police responded around 5:30 a.m. on Wednesday to a call of an injured person in an apartment building near the corner of Cunard and Gottingen streets.

The victim was taken to the QEII Health Sciences Centre

Injuries

Police say they found a woman bleeding from her face and shoulder.

but refused to co-operate with police. The incident remains under investigation. METRO

Drug charges

Federal jail time for Sydney man

A 61-year-old Sydney man has been sentenced to complete a two-year federal jail term after pleading guilty to drug and breach charges.

Frank John Abbass of Douglas Street pleaded guilty to two counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking, two counts of trafficking and a single count of possession.

CAPE BRETON POST

Hants County

Accused murderer to stand trial

A man charged in connection with two murders in Hants County more than 13 years ago will stand trial by judge and jury in Supreme Court this May.

Curtis Blair Lynds of North River, Colchester Co. was charged in December 2010 in connection with the Centre Burlington murders of Barry Kirk Mersereau and Nancy Paula Christensen.

KING'S COUNTY REGISTER



Not looking for charity, just some parity

Members of the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union, Local 34, march during a rally outside of Northwood Homecare Inc. in Dartmouth on Wednesday afternoon. Homecare workers at Northwood are in a legal strike position starting Feb. 28 and are demanding parity for its workers with those doing the same jobs at hospitals. DESERIE MURPHY/FOR METRO

Watershed findings to be presented to public

Sandy Lake. Council will vote on recommendations once final report complete

GEORDON OMAND
halifax@metronews.ca

Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents of Bedford and Hammonds Plains to a public meeting Thursday evening to present the results of the Sandy Lake Watershed Study.

The study's preliminary findings — submitted to the city by consulting and engineering firm AECOM earlier this month — will be presented during Thursday's meeting.

"It talks about the water quality status of the lakes in the area and proposes some water quality objectives for consideration by the municipality," said Cameron Deacoff, environmental performance officer with HRM.

The watershed's two principal lakes — Sandy Lake and Marsh Lake — were found to be mesotrophic, or medium quality, with a medium level of productivity, said Deacoff.

To preserve this level of water quality, AECOM recommends the city follow guidelines set by the Council of Canadian Ministers of the Environment.

The municipality commissioned the watershed study in anticipation of development work in the Sandy Lake watershed area, as required by Halifax's

regional plan.

The area is designated for residential settlement, with the majority of the land owned by Halifax-based development company Armco, said Deacoff.

The purpose of the study is to provide information about surface and groundwater quality and quantity, and to provide guidelines and recommendations that will inform land-use planning and development decisions.

The preliminary report measured various the levels of various water quality indicators, including phosphorus, nitrogen, chlorophyll and suspended solids.

The municipality will present the preliminary findings of the study and discuss the next steps in crafting the final report.

The public will also have

Meeting details:

Thursday between 7 and 9 p.m. at Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre, 202 Innovation Dr., Bedford

the chance to ask questions about the project.

The preliminary report — the first phase in the Sandy Lake Watershed Study — describes existing conditions in the watershed area, while the second-phase final report will assess the effects of anticipated land use changes.

AECOM will conduct more work in early to mid 2014 for presentation in the final report, expected to be submitted to the city by early summer.

Consumer confidence stable in Halifax: Survey

Consumer confidence in Halifax remained stable this quarter while other Maritime cities dropped, according to new data from Corporate Research Associates Inc.

On Wednesday, Corporate Research Associates Inc. released the numbers for

their Urban Report Survey.

It showed confidence in Halifax was steady at 102.1 per cent, compared to 102 per cent in November.

Confidence declined the most in Saint John (down four points from 99.4 to 95.4) and Moncton, which is down two points and is

sitting at 102.4, compared with 104.5.

The survey was conducted from January 30 to February 16.

Results are accurate to within plus or minus 4.9 percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

METRO

Methodology

Results are based on an adult sample of 411 residents in HRM, and 400 in Saint John, Moncton, and Fredericton.



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Hide-and-seek. RCMP hopes pig carcass will lead to missing bodies

The Saskatchewan RCMP is hoping a bright-orange pig carcass will help them locate missing bodies in Saskatchewan's River System.

Equipped with a radio transmitter and GPS tracker, members of the RCMP's major crimes historical case unit (HCU) placed the 180-pound pig into the South Saskatchewan River at the Saskatoon Canoe Club on Wednesday morning.

"The whole idea of this project is to track this pig's movements as it flows down the river and hopefully, that will give us some insight as to where bodies end up," said Cpl. Tyler Hadland, of the HCU, noting six bodies are presumed to be in the South Saskatchewan River.

"The Saskatoon historical case unit has been annually searching the river, by plane and by boat, for the past number of years and we haven't been able to recover any of these bodies," he said. "So it's quite a mystery."



A member of the Saskatchewan RCMP places a bright-orange pig carcass into the South Saskatchewan River at the Saskatoon Canoe Club on Wednesday morning.
MORGANMODJESKI/METRO IN SASKATOON

RCMP said Wednesday's launch is the projects' second phase, as a pig-carcass with similar tracking devices was placed into the North Saskatchewan River in North Battleford in the fall of 2013.

However, the carcass only travelled 20 kilometres before it was found on a sandbar a week later. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO IN SASKATOON

Cruise ship. Worker accused of rape, trying to throw victim off balcony

A cruise ship worker from Indonesia is accused of raping a passenger aboard a Holland America Line vessel and then trying to throw her overboard, authorities said Tuesday.

The FBI reports that 28-year-old Ketut Pujayasa was arrested Sunday when the MS Nieuw Amsterdam returned to Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale. The incident occurred early Friday morning in international waters off the coast of Roatan, Honduras.

According to a criminal complaint, the victim — a 31-year-old U.S. woman — told investigators she was attacked and raped in her stateroom. The attacker tried to throw her from the balcony, but she escaped and received help from another passenger.

Pujayasa initially left the room but then turned himself in. The report says the Indonesian man told investigators he attacked the victim because she had disrespected him earlier.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Craigslis

Police unsure of woman's claim of killing spree

Police have yet to substantiate a 19-year-old woman's claim that she killed more than 20 people in four states before the Pennsylvania murder she is now charged with committing.

Northumberland County District Attorney Tony Rosini said in a statement Tuesday "there has been no verification of any of

the information that has been the subject of media coverage" in the case of Miranda Barbour, who with husband Elytte Barbour is awaiting trial in the death of a man they're accused of luring through a Craigslis ad for companionship.

Miranda Barbour, in a Friday prison interview with The Daily Item in Sunbury, claimed to have killed at least 22 people in Alaska, Texas, North Carolina and California in the past six years as part of her involvement in a satanic cult.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Suspended Senator Patrick Brazeau has found work at the Barefax strip club, shown near Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Wednesday.

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brazeau lands gig at strip joint

New job. Brazeau has been without a steady Senate paycheck since his suspension in November

Patrick Brazeau has gone from sitting in the Senate to helping run a strip club.

The suspended senator, who faces criminal charges in connection with the expense scandal that roiled the august upper chamber last year, is now working as a manager at an Ottawa strip

joint.

Brazeau has been spotted inside the Barefax Gentlemen's Club in recent days, but he declined Wednesday to speak to reporters camped outside the establishment who trailed him inside to the door of his office.

Carmelina Bentivoglio, the daughter of the club's owner, said Brazeau interviewed for a job as a day manager two weeks ago. He'll be responsible for "scheduling, hiring, firing, inventory — just like any other job," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Odd jobs

Patrick Brazeau also tried his hand as a columnist for the Halifax version of Frank magazine, but was canned after one-and-a-half columns, prompting an apology from the editor for subjecting readers to Brazeau's "narcissistic ramblings."

- Brazeau will oversee between 25 and 30 employees in his new job, which he started Monday.



Patrick Brazeau THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Heart surgery in 140 characters or less

It has allowed us to share in the exploration of space. And now Twitter is taking us into the mysteries of the human heart.

The 140-character social platform, used to extraordinary effect by Canadian astronaut Commander Chris Hadfield last year, will host a cardiac bypass surgery on Thursday.

The social media team of Toronto's Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre will live tweet a CABG. The acronym, pronounced "cabbage," stands for coronary artery bypass graft.

Beginning at 8 a.m. EST, @Sunnybrook will be tweeting updates and images of the surgery bearing the hashtag #SBheart. People interested

can pose questions which will be answered in real time.

Hospital spokeswoman Marie Sanderson says the idea behind the event is to educate the public about heart disease. The event will be archived at sunnybrook.ca/Sbheart.

The hospital believes it will be the first Canadian facility to live tweet heart surgery.

But it's definitely not the first to bring the twittersphere into the operating room.

In 2012 Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, Texas, live tweeted brain surgery to an audience estimated to be 14.5 million people. And last fall a British hospital gave tweeps a front-row seat for a cataract surgery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Venezuelan protests carry on, opposition leader still in jail

More protests to come. Plans in the works for nationwide marches on Saturday

Held at a military jail, opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez waited to learn Wednesday if he will be charged for violence that has erupted during protests that have revitalized challenges to 15 years of socialist rule in Venezuela.

Lopez, who dramatically surrendered to authorities before thousands of cheering supporters Tuesday, was to appear before a judge to learn what charges he would face for organizing mass demonstrations that have resulted in at least six deaths and more than 100 injuries over the past week.

The hearing was closed and the outcome had not been announced by late Wednesday as sporadic protests continued to erupt throughout the capital, with protesters setting fires in the streets and police firing volleys of tear gas and blasts from water cannons.

The government of President Nicolas Maduro has accused Lopez, a 42-year-old former mayor and the leader of the Popular Will party, of attempting to foment a coup in the South American nation and authorities had said he could face charges that include

homicide and causing grievous bodily harm.

Hundreds of supporters waited outside the courthouse for news of the decision, watched over by National Guard troops.

Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma, a member of a different opposition party, showed up at one point in a sign of unity among the foes of the Maduro government.

"We are all united in demanding the release of Leopoldo Lopez," Ledezma said. "We are rallying behind him."

The jailing of Lopez has made him a cause célèbre among opponents of Maduro, eclipsing to some degree Henrique Capriles, the opposition's two-time losing presidential candidate.

Capriles attended a rally on Feb. 12 in Caracas led by Lopez but did not appear on the stage to address the masses of demonstrators. Clashes with police erupted afterward, after the opposition leaders had left, and resulted in three deaths. In Twitter messages, he accused the government on Wednesday of infiltrating opposition demonstrations to provoke violence.

Maduro accused Lopez of leading a "fascist" plot to oust the socialist government, the political legacy of the late Hugo Chavez, and authorities issued an arrest warrant for him. He surrendered theatrically on Tuesday, dressed in white to



A demonstrator next to a burning barricade at an opposition protest in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, after their leader, Leopoldo Lopez, surrendered to authorities. Lopez was sought for allegedly inciting violence in clashes between police and protesters that killed three people in last week's protests. RODRIGO ABD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

signify peace, adorned with a crucifix from his wife and surrounded by a sea of supporters.

"If my jailing serves to awaken a people, serves to awaken Venezuela ... then it will be well worth the infamous imprisonment imposed upon me directly, with cowardice," he shouted from atop a statue of 19th century Cuban independence hero Jose Marti in a Caracas plaza.

Much of the capital shut down afterward, fearing violent clashes, but the violence occurred in Valencia, the third largest city, where National Guard troops fired rubber bullets and unknown gunman on motorcycles fired live rounds at protesters. Genesis Carmona, a 22-year-old university student who had been Miss Tourism 2013 for the state of Carabobo, was struck in the head and

killed by a bullet, a death that reverberated in a country that prizes beauty queens.

Since the latest unrest began a week ago, six people have died.

Human rights groups have condemned the charges against Lopez, with Amnesty International and others saying they appear to be politically motivated.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Resignation demands

"I'm marching to protest against the situation this country is in, with this incompetent government giving all our oil and money to other countries.... We'll be in the streets until this government resign."



Juan Luis Oropeza, 22, graphic designer

Dissatisfaction

"I'm marching because ... I want the students arrested during peaceful protests released. And I'm protesting against the economic and social problems in this country."



Julián Sanchez, 21, social communications student

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CLEVE'S Source for sports

Sochi

IOC president praises Ukraine's athletes

IOC president Thomas Bach has expressed his condolences to victims of the violence in Ukraine and praised Ukraine's Olympic athletes for continuing to compete at the Sochi Games.

Ukraine sent a team of 43 athletes to Sochi.

Bach says "the way they have continued to represent their nation with great dignity is a credit to them and their country." He says "their presence here is a symbol that sport can build bridges."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Europe

EU debating sanctions against Ukraine

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told reporters that he and his counterparts from Germany and Poland would meet both sides in Ukraine ahead of the EU meeting on possible sanctions. He said he hoped the two sides "will find a way for dialogue."

Possible sanctions include travel bans and asset freezes, which could hit hard the powerful oligarchs who back Viktor Yanukovych.

Ordinary Ukrainians, meanwhile, are struggling amid a stagnating economy and soaring corruption.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dmytro Mytsak of Ukraine during the alpine skiing men's giant slalom in Sochi on Wednesday.

GETTY IMAGES

Russia. Cossacks attack Pussy Riot members with horsewhips over protest

Cossack militia attacked the Pussy Riot punk group with horsewhips on Wednesday as the artists — who have feuded with Vladimir Putin's government for years — tried to perform under a sign advertising the Sochi Olympics.

Six group members — five women and one man — donned their signature ski masks and were pulling out a guitar and microphone as at least 10 Cossacks and other security officials moved in. One Cossack appeared to use pepper spray. Another whipped several group members while

other Cossacks ripped off their masks and threw the guitar in a garbage can.

Police arrived and questioned witnesses, but no one was arrested.

Pussy Riot, a performance-art collective involving a loose membership of feminists who edit their actions into music videos, has become an international flashpoint for those who contend Putin's government has exceeded its authority, particularly restricting human and gay rights.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A Cossack militiaman attacks Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and a photographer as she and fellow members of the punk group Pussy Riot, including Maria Alekhina, right, in the pink balaclava, stage a protest performance in Sochi, Russia, on Wednesday. MORRY GASH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Anti-government protesters protect themselves with shields during clashes with riot police in Independence Square, the epicentre of the country's current unrest, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Wednesday, before the president and leaders of the protest called a truce. SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine calls a truce

Negotiations.

Earlier violence that killed 26 had fuelled fears the nation could be sliding toward a messy breakup

Ukraine's embattled president and leaders of the protests that have been roiling the country agreed Wednesday on a truce to halt the violence that has killed 26 people and injured more than 425 others.

A protest leader was quoted as saying the government pledged not to attack an opposition encampment in central Kyiv while further nego-

tiations unfold.

President Viktor Yanukovich met with opposition leaders and the two sides agreed to halt the violence and to hold talks on ending bloodshed, a statement on the presidential website said. The statement did not give any further details.

Vitali Klitschko, one of the leaders of the protests that have sought to keep Ukraine open to Europe and out of a close political and economic alliance with Russia, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying that Yanukovich agreed that there would be no attempt to storm the protesters' encampment on the main square of downtown Kyiv.

Flames from burning barricades of tires and refuse leapt

into the air at the square for a second night, as protesters demanding Yanukovich's resignation showed no sign of yielding.

The truce announcement came hours after the president replaced the army chief and the military vowed a national anti-terrorist operation to restore order.

Officials have often referred to the protesters who have demanded Yanukovich's resignation for months as "terrorists."

Political and diplomatic manoeuvring has continued, with both Moscow and the West eager to gain influence over this former Soviet republic. Three EU foreign ministers — from Germany, France and Poland — were heading to Kyiv on Thursday to speak with

An issue of identity

The recent violence has been the worst in nearly three months of anti-government protests that have paralyzed Kyiv.

- The two sides are locked in a battle over the identity of this nation of 46 million, whose loyalties are divided between Russia and the West.

both sides before an emergency EU meeting back in Brussels to consider sanctions against those responsible for the recent violence in Ukraine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada reacts

Feds consider diplomatic options

Ukrainians living in the United States during a bilateral meeting in Mexico, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President Barack Obama were in agreement

on several fronts in regards to the Ukrainian crisis, calling it a "welcome step" if a truce was called between the Ukrainian government and opposition leaders.

"We hold the government responsible and urge them to take all the steps necessary to resolve the situation," Harper told a news conference following

the meeting.

Harper and Obama also urged the Ukrainian military to show restraint and refrain from becoming involved in issues that should be resolved by civilians, the statement said.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said Canada is considering a range of diplomatic options to send

a message to the Yanukovich government, including targeted sanctions.

The Harper government will consult other nations as it considers possible next steps, he said. "I will ... be consulting our allies and like-minded nations to build a co-ordinated path forward in the coming days."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico

Official resigns after journalist's body found

The head prosecutor in Mexico's Veracruz state has resigned one week after the body of a kidnapped newspaper reporter was found in a clandestine grave.

State prosecutor Felipe Flores Espinosa's office has drawn criticism for quickly concluding that the crime-beat reporter was killed because of a personal dispute with a bar owner.

Ten journalists have been killed in Veracruz under the current administration of Gov. Javier Duarte. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

South Sudan

Refugees, UN staff trapped

Fighting between South Sudan's army and rebels in the capital of one of its oil-rich states is forcing UN personnel to remain inside a base where more than 20,000 frightened residents are seeking refuge, officials said Wednesday.

UN personnel are unable to leave the base in Malakal because of the fighting, said Joe Contreiras, a spokesman for the UN mission in South Sudan. Ten people died at the hospital at the UN base on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

African migrants

Israel deports dozens to Uganda

Israel has begun sending dozens of African migrants to Uganda, an Israeli official said Wednesday, a move that has sparked concerns that they are being coerced into going to a country that may not keep them safe.

The move marks a new phase in Israel's campaign to rid itself of thousands of Africans who came to the country in recent years.

"We are very concerned that these deportations are clearly not taking into consideration the safety and well-being of the deportees," said Elizabeth Tsurkov, of the Hotline for Migrant Workers, an advocacy group.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Invite the Nazis over for dinner: Bertrand Russell

Pre-war letter unearthed. Nobel laureate wrote the idea would 'baffle' potential invaders

The Museum of Tolerance has acquired a 1937 letter written by Bertrand Russell in which the Nobel Prize-winning philosopher says if the Nazi army invades his native England the British should invite Adolf Hitler to dinner rather than fight.

The museum, part of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, announced Wednesday that it paid \$4,000 for the letter at a London auction last month.

"If the Germans succeed in sending an invading army

to England we should do best to treat them as visitors, give them quarters and invite the commander-in-chief to dine with the prime minister," Russell wrote to British critic Godfrey Carter. "Such behaviour would completely baffle them."

Rabbi Marvin Hier, the Wiesenthal Center's founder, says Russell's letter will be placed in the museum alongside one that Hitler wrote in 1919 outlining the anti-Semitic views that would lead to the Holocaust

What was he thinking?

"He didn't understand ... the idea that ... if we act nice to Hitler, serve him the best wine, that Hitler will come around to see things our way — is just preposterous."

Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder, Simon Wiesenthal Center

and killing of 6 million Jews.

Russell, one of the 20th century's leading pacifists, eventually changed his views on Hitler.

In the letter, written during the time Hitler was stripping German Jews of their rights, sending political prisoners to the brutal Dachau concentration camp and building a huge military machine, Russell said he saw no value in engaging the country in war.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Detained in North Korea

Karen Short holds a photo of her husband, Australian missionary John Short, in Hong Kong on Wednesday. She says her husband went to North Korea last week with a person who said Tuesday Short had been arrested at his Pyongyang hotel on Sunday. **KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Bound for the Olympics. American warship runs aground in Turkey

One of two U.S. warships dispatched to the Black Sea before the Sochi Winter Olympics remains in a Turkish port after running aground last week, the Navy said Wednesday.

The frigate USS Taylor is being inspected for damage after it ran aground Feb. 12 while preparing to moor at Samsun, Turkey, about 370 kilometres southwest of Sochi. A Turkish official said it may be repaired in a day or two.

Lt. Shawn Eklund, a U.S. Navy spokesman in Europe, said that even with the Tay-

lor sidelined, the U.S. would still be able to respond should Russia ask for help with any crisis. The Taylor and the USS Mount Whitney were sent to the Black Sea after an uptick in security threats around the Olympics, although the Pentagon said the U.S. warships were deployed as part of normal military planning and could perform any required missions, including communications or evacuations.

The U.S. Navy says no one was injured when the Taylor ran aground.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.S. navy frigate USS Taylor, which ran aground on Feb. 12, enters the Black Sea port of Varna, Bulgaria, in this 2008 photo. **PETAR PETROV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Escaping the death grip

Snake on the loose.

An Alberta man is lucky to be alive after his Burmese python coiled around him

MARCO
VIGLIOTTI
Metro in Regina

Say that one day your beloved pet, whom you had watched sprout since his infancy, managed to break free of his warm, well-ventilated enclosure and began to wriggle his frame around you.

If you had any time to think, you might reflect that although you've been a benevolent caretaker all this time, you're now gasping for air as the ungrateful pet squeezes you ever tighter. Heartbreaking stuff, right?

The pet in question isn't a Labradoodle, and this isn't a story from somewhere in Southeast Asia.

Rather, it's a true tale that involves one of the largest



The Burmese python is one of the world's five largest snakes. GETTY IMAGES FILE

snakes on the planet — the feared Burmese python — and a basement in Alberta.

"(The owner) had this rather large dangerous snake he kept in his basement," explained Pat

Dunford, an Alberta conservation officer, who did not specify the location of the home. "He

went down there to check on it and because it was loose it started to coil around him."

Luckily, the man was able to escape — albeit with a new-found and well-deserved fear of the tropical snake. He quickly called conservation officers to help him handle the creature.

The Burmese python is one of the world's five biggest snakes, a collection that also includes the African rock python. The latter is the same species of snake that killed two boys in New Brunswick last summer after escaping from its cage.

Unlike that situation, in which it appears the owner didn't have a permit, the owner in Alberta was able to legally possess the snake thanks to a grandfathering clause in provincial regulations.

"It was during a time in which we were changing regulations and becoming more strict," Dunford explained. "(The owner) got a shelter permit because he possessed it legally before we made our regulations more restrictive, so we grandfathered the possession of certain pets for a time."

Quoted

"After a day they went in there and because the temperature was much cooler, the snake was so lethargic that it was not aggressive at all."

Pat Dunford, an Alberta conservation officer, describing how officials corralled a loose Burmese python.

Once officers arrived, they developed a game plan to safely apprehend the snake.

As the Burmese python thrives in blisteringly hot conditions, Dunford said, officers decided to turn off the heat in the house in hopes that cooler conditions would slow the snake down.

It worked. "After a day, they went in there and because the temperature was much cooler, the snake was so lethargic that it was not aggressive at all," he explained. "They were able actually to help the owner simply get it back into its secure container."

But this is Canada — could I really meet a pet crocodile on the loose?*

The deaths of two young boys in New Brunswick last summer at the hands of an escaped African rock python alerted the country to the potential dangers of unusual pets.

But is there really such a threat in fam-

ously frigid Canada of encountering somebody's dangerous exotic animal?

It appears to depend on where you live, but generally, it seems that Canada poses a far bigger threat to odd pets than they do to us.

"Fortunately (in Alberta) we haven't had too many issues with exotics getting into the wild," Pat Dunford, an Alberta conservation officer, told Metro, noting the province does have a detailed action plan to han-

* Well, yes, you could. Because it's happened. In Hamilton, Ont., 2010, a birdwatcher spotted what was either a crocodile or an alligator swimming in a pond. In Kapuskasing, Ont., in 2012, police had to kill a metre-long crocodile that appeared in a vacant lot.

dle these sorts of situations. He said dangerous animals imported from sunnier locales, such as tropical snakes,

would probably only survive during the summer months and wouldn't "last long when the temperature gets colder."

Last July, a six-foot, 15-pound albino Burmese python was discovered emaciated and dehydrated in a wooded area near Chilliwack, B.C., according to media reports.

The snake, which was brought to and treated at a Maple Ridge veterinarian clinic, did not fare well in the wild — even in the relatively mild climate of the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia.

So one can imagine how poorly an imported snake would fare in significantly colder locales on the Canadian prairies.

In any case, Dunford said, the imported animals that we should worry about more are notoriously invasive species such as certain fish, including the Asian carp. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

Wouldn't you think that, in a frozen country such as ours, it might be difficult to find a peacock for sale? But it's not. We had no trouble finding a breeder in southern Ontario. Check out countrysideexotics.com to see what's on offer.



Day 2: Exotic pets in Canada

After two New Brunswick boys were killed last year by an escaped African rock python, we wanted to understand why so many Canadians bring exotic — and sometimes lethal — animals into their homes and lives. What are the costs involved in caring for such critters? How many of these pets are illegal? And what happens when it all goes wrong?

- **Friday.** Metro goes shopping for an opossum and tells you where to turn when you have problems with your pet fox.
- **Online.** Read about Jagger, a serval cat who lives in a Regina suburb, and learn why buying exotic pets online may not be such a good idea.



The hot-button hedgehog

Sure, they're cute, but in some parts of the U.S., they also seem to be controversial — partly, it appears, because of a debate over whether they spread foot-and-mouth disease. According to online forum hedgehogcentral.com, the animals are illegal in California, Hawaii, Georgia and the five boroughs of New York City. Maine has also had restrictions, and the site describes the situation in Pennsylvania as "all out war on hedgehogs within the state."

Hedgehog advocates insist the animals are not a problem. Z.G. Standing Bear, treasurer of the International Hedgehog Association, told Torstar News Service last year that six U.S. states and several cities ban hedgehogs for "all kinds of reasons" based on "no facts at all." "They're benign. There is nothing dangerous about them. That's what irritates us so much; they get this bad reputation," he said.

Hedgehogs may be in for a tough time north of the border, too. Last year, a Toronto city councillor asked municipal staff to study adding animals including hedgehogs to the city's list of prohibited species. Flamingoes, penguins, walrus, vultures and seals are also in his sights. **METRO**



An African pygmy hedgehog

What happens when it all goes wrong

In the past couple of decades, there've been a number of high-profile cases in Canada of exotic pets killing their owners:

- In 2007, 32-year-old Tanya Dumstre-Soos was mauled by a tiger owned by her fiancé at a farm in 100 Mile House, B.C., while several children, including one of her own, watched. It's thought that the tiger didn't intentionally attack her, but rather was trying to play with her skirt as she stood outside its enclosure talking to it. The tiger, Gangus, was the only one of three tigers on the farm who wasn't declawed, and Dumstre-Soos died of her injuries. Animals on the farm also included a lion and a lemur, and a variety of officials and animal welfare advocates said they'd had ongoing concerns about the farm.
- In 1992, 28-year-old Mark Neville of Brampton, Ont., was

strangled to death by his five-metre-long pet Burmese python. At the time, the death prompted calls for consistent legislation on exotic pets, but unlike many provinces, Ontario still doesn't have provincial standards on the issue.

The investigating coroner said Neville had visited a friend's house where there was a shedding cat, and it's believed that later, when he put his hand in the python's enclosure, it smelled food and attacked.

- In early 2010, 66-year-old Norman Buwalda was killed at his home in Southwold, Ont., as he entered the cage of a 650-pound Siberian tiger. No one witnessed the attack, and police said they don't know why it happened. Buwalda was the chairman of the Canadian Exotic Animal

Owner's Association, and had five wild cats, including a lion and a cougar. Six years previously, a 350-pound tiger seriously injured a boy visiting the property. **METRO**



You know that an octopus can make a tasty deep-fried appetizer, but did you know people keep them as pets? Read Metro tomorrow to find out which Hollywood star once had a cephalopod about the house.

ISTOCK

'If you're not prepared to devote your life to your pet monkey, please don't get one'

Lessons from Darwin.

The former owner of the Ikea monkey says having a primate in the house takes time, energy and resources

ROSS ROMANIUK

Metro in Regina

She and what had been her pet monkey have made headlines in Canada for more than a year, since the primate managed to get out of her car outside a Toronto Ikea store and scamper around the property in late 2012.

Yasmin Nakhuda, a Toronto lawyer, is trying to get Darwin back through an appeal of an Ontario court ruling that has since kept the monkey at a primate sanctuary.

Metro asked Nakhuda about her case, and about having primates as pets.

Are you optimistic about your chance of reclaiming legal ownership of Darwin through your court appeal?

We are still trying to get him back but since the matter is still being reviewed for appeal purposes, I cannot make any further comments regarding chances of winning.



After her pet monkey's romp around a Toronto-area Ikea, Yasmin Nakhuda has been struggling to get it back. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Do you feel that monkeys such as Darwin make good pets for people in Canada?

Monkeys are not pets for everyone. But if the owner is very dedicated, loving, educated about primate needs and ready and willing to learn, then a monkey can be more than a pet — it can become part of one's family. Monkeys are intelligent and it is untrue that all monkeys are

Visit metronews.ca to watch a video of monkeys working as waiters in Japan.



aggressive. Some monkeys work as licensed waiters in Japan, while others are trained and work as helpers for the disabled.

Do you have any advice for other people who might be considering trying to acquire monkeys or other animals that are deemed exotic or foreign to Canada?

If you are not prepared to devote your life to your pet monkey, then please don't get one. However, if you do and you are able to earn the love and respect of your pet monkey, a pet monkey

can be one of the greatest companions you can have in your life.

As for other exotic pets, I own an African Grey parrot and a Scarlet Macaw and they are equally great pets given their intelligence, but again, they need a lot of attention and care and one has to be able to afford expensive toys, food and supplements on an ongoing basis.



Have an adventure with Darwin

Darwin's Ikea shopping trip may be over in real life, but it continues online in the form of a video game which you can find at ikeamonkeyshirt.com. Barnabas Wornoff, an animation professor at Toronto's Seneca College, took about a week to create the game with a group of former students. Players can control the shearing coat-wearing monkey as it wanders through the parking lot in search of Allen keys, pegs and other parts needed to build a Billy wall shelf, all the while dodging rogue shopping carts and Ikea customers. Wornoff said the monkey dances when the game is completed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Market Minute



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TSX
14,119.73 (+42.26)



OIL
\$103.31 US (+\$0.88)



GOLD
\$1,320.40 US (-\$4)

Natural gas: \$6.10 US (+\$0.54)
Dow Jones: 16,040.56 (-89.84)

Rogers biggest buyer

Wireless spectrum auction raises \$5.27B for feds

The federal government raked in \$5.27 billion in the latest wireless spectrum auction, the most Ottawa has ever received in such a sale, Industry Canada said Wednesday.

The auction also saw Quebecor's Videotron make

a major push outside of its home province, spending some \$233.3 million for licences not only in Quebec, but also Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

Industry Minister James Moore said he believed that Videotron had the capacity to become the fourth national wireless company that his government has been pushing for. "I think it is great that they are making an investment," Moore said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Showing our true patriot love for Facebook

O (boy) Canada. With glowing faces ... from our smartphones we stand on guard for the social network

Record-breaking buy

Facebook is buying mobile messaging service WhatsApp for up to \$19 billion US in cash and stock, by far the company's largest acquisition.

Canada was one of the first countries to go completely crazy for Facebook and now the social network is saying we're leading the charge with mobile usage, too.

There are 19 million Canadians who access Facebook at least once a month and 14 million who log in every single day, says Jordan Banks, the head of Facebook Canada. Those numbers haven't really changed since the summer, but mobile is growing.

The number of users who log in with a phone or tablet at least once a month is now

at 15 million, up about 15 per cent from 13 million. And the number of mobile users accessing Facebook daily is up about six per cent to 10 million, from 9.4 million in August.

"We're seeing people check their phones 20 times a day for Facebook — status updates and news feed posts and checking in — so it's really become like a Canadian reflex, if you will, to access your phone, whether you're at a bus stop or a hockey game," said Banks. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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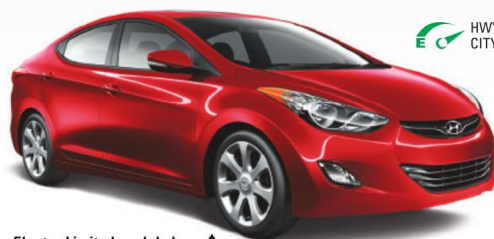
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Seeds of anger sprout in Greece

A farmer shouts slogans during a protest outside the Greek parliament against government tax policies in Athens on Wednesday. About 4,000 people, including civil servant unions, took part in the peaceful demonstration outside the House of Parliament. Greece's conservative-led government has committed to continue spending cuts and economic reforms in exchange for billions of euros in international rescue loans. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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OLYMPICS BRING OUT THE WORST

Olympic officials love to wax eloquent about how sports can help us celebrate humanity as one, as can be illustrated in this history of the Games:

1896: The modern Olympic Games are created to promote world peace.

1897: World peace declared.

This timeline, though exhaustive, is not wholly accurate. In fact, the Olympics solve society's problems with only the same proficiency that pop songs alleviate world hunger.

While I won't claim to know the hearts of the amazing athletes, I can talk about the average sports fans' humanity during these Olympics in Sochi. Their emotions are not always the Olympian ideal.

Rage: Sports always attracts angry fans: hockey fans who would gladly dismember a 14-year-old linesman; baseball fans apoplectic about strike calls they can't possibly see; MMA fans who fill in most of evolution's missing links. But the Olympics teach us that the most terrifying creature of all is the figure skating fan who is convinced their favourite skaters were



HE SAYS

John Mazerolle

metronews.ca

stuffed.

It's satisfying in a way. People who mock me for yelling at the TV during a Bruins game positively have a Salchow every four years because someone on Team Canada got "robbed." It's an Olympic tradition. This wouldn't happen if Olympic figure skating had fighting like the North American version, but that's a debate for later.

Fear: What do you suppose is the hardest job in the world? Doctor? Air traffic controller? Olympian? No, the Olympics prove time and again that the hardest job is creating a mascot that is not a horrifying abomination.

It's a life rule. There are no funny clowns, no sexy feet and no mascots that will not haunt your dreams. The Athens mascots appeared to be phaluses wearing coloured condoms, perhaps to laud the birth of civilization. The London mascots were one-eyed demon creatures, probably to promote the city's Olympian level of CCTV cameras.

At first the Sochi bear seemed like a fool-proof idea. Who doesn't like teddy bears? However, the version at the opening cere-

monies looked like a drunken uncle who should delete his Internet browsing history more often. Meanwhile, the version that stalks Olympic venues almost looks like an everyday bear mascot — except that he has cold, dead shark eyes. He will have children leaving their night lights on until at least the 2016 Summer Games. And who knows what monstrosity we might be faced with then?

Schadenfreude: If my workplace and favourite bar are any indication, two things always get big cheers from crowds at the Olympics:

- 1.) A Canadian hockey player scores a goal.
- 2.) An athlete from another country falls over.

The sport might be one fans had not heard of 10 minutes ago — Ladies' Super-G Bobsled Cross — but if there's a chance at gold, we want our opponents crushed. And, if necessary, their pelvises.

In short, the Olympics aren't the best of humanity, on either side of the TV screen. They're just ... humanity, which includes braggarts, fools and outright villains, to go along with the kind-hearted, the wise and the heroes.

And despite my cynical take, I still believe in heroes. After all, somebody has to slay the damn bear.

ZOOM

All that glitters isn't gold



ANNE OLLILA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Finnish reindeer dabbled with paint

A reindeer is seen with fluorescent antlers after a test in which Finnish herders dabbed it with fluorescent paint. Rudolph the reindeer is having a glittering antler makeover — the latest attempt to halt some of the thousands of road deaths of the roaming

caribou in the wilds of Finland.

Anne Ollila, of the Finnish Reindeer Herders' Association, says the antlers of 20 reindeer have been painted with various fluorescent dyes to see how the animals react and whether the paints are resistant to the harsh Arctic climate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roaming free

200,000

If successful, animals with glittering antlers will be free to roam Lapland — a vast, deserted area in northern Finland where herders tend to some 200,000 reindeer.

Reflective tape

- The Finnish Reindeer Association says reflectors and reflective tape have proven unsuccessful as reindeer have torn them off — and road signs warning drivers of roaming reindeer often are stolen by tourists as souvenirs.

Clickbait



HANNAH ZITNER

hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Looks like over-sharing social media users are learning from their mishaps as a wave of apps touting online anonymity are quietly creeping into cyberspace. Users wanting to publicly praise or put down that pretty girl, berate their boss or wax poetic have carved out online spaces to do so without having to worry about said pretty girl, boss, etc.



ISTOCKIMAGES

Whisper:

Posts run the gamut from guilty pleasures to deep thoughts (#ThereIsNoProof) in this Tumblr-like confessional space.

Shrtwv:

Location-based sharing means you

share your anonymous thoughts, photos, etc., with other Shrtwv users in the same vicinity (no, this is not meant to be the latest Grindr)

Secret:

Like other social media sites, you're still sharing your "secrets" with your pals, but you get to do so incognito.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: The idea of Trudeau rolling papers was originally the Cons' plan to disrupt the Liberals. Do they help or hinder Trudeau's image?

@Russell Barth: the irony of these papers (AND the #cpc's mad assertions) is that Justin isn't *actually* going to legalize #pot

@chlobotxo: i think it's hilarious. It helps by showing the Cons are traditional bullies

@ac_awesome: So instead of saying he flip-flops, opponents are accusing him of Zigzags.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
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Loughnane 'loving life' with Chicago

Concert. Ultra busy legendary rockers playing Metro Centre this weekend



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca

You think you're busy? Try out this work week. Fly from Arizona to California to rehearse with Robin Thicke for your performance for the Grammy Awards.

Then hop on a plane and zoom to Chicago to rehearse and play a show with the Chicago Symphony. Once the curtain goes up, fly back to L.A. to perform at the Grammys. Then hit the hay, hop back on a plane and find yourself in Chicago again to play your second billing with the symphony.

No time to schmooze, though. Soon you get on a bus and drive down to Bloomington, Ill., to play a benefit concert to raise money for the victims of a recent tornado. Sure, it's a busy life, but according to original Chicago band member Lee Loughnane, it's a living.

"This is a very unique job, but this is a job," he said over the phone. "I'm blessed to be able to play the same instrument for a living that I picked up when I was 11 years old. It's unbelievable — I'm loving life!" One grand slam week, on top of the celebrations for their first album, The Chicago Transit Authority, and being inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame, Loughnane's pride in the band's achievements is further amplified by the group's ability to adapt to



Members of the rock group Chicago are still going strong after hitting the big time in the 1970s. CONTRIBUTED

Now and then

"The world we're in now, the world we came from in the '70s and the pop world now — all so different."

Lee Loughnane, Chicago band member

the current entertainment world.

"We are able to function in completely two different worlds — maybe three," he said. "The world we're in now, the world we came from in the '70s and the pop world now — all so different."

Loughnane will be in our world Sunday night when

he and the band play the Metro Centre. Further proving his point on the divide among the generations, our conversation about the recording process of their first album versus their on-the-road-rig was only mildly interrupted by a sidebar chat about twerking. A week out from sharing the stage with Robin Thicke,

Online

To keep tabs on their latest original music, visit chicagotheband.com.



Details

- **What.** Chicago
- **Where.** Halifax Metro Centre
- **When.** Sunday, 8 p.m.
- **Tickets.** ticketatlantic.com

we are fortunate enough to be in the position where we can handle all these different styles. That's one thing we've always prided ourselves on — we can play anything. We have a care and appreciation for each style."

TOP SIX @ 6
Weeknights at 6 KB counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

- 6 Katy Perry Ft. Juicy J
Dark Horse
- 5 Lorde
Team
- 4 Pitbull ft. Ke\$ha
Timber
- 3 A Great Big World ft. Christina Aguilera
Say Something
- 2 Jason Denulo
Talk Dirty
- 1 Pharrell Williams
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2 SCENE



Katy Perry ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Wedding fireworks for Katy and John?

Katy Perry is sending the gossip world into a tizzy by sporting the same diamond ring on a very suspicious finger for the past few days. The first time, we all chalked it up to her being fashionable — but then the singer had the audacity to wear the art-deco-influenced ring yet again at the Elle Style Awards on Tuesday in London. “What does it mmmmmeee-

aaaaannnnn?” your brain is undoubtedly asking, since we are all conditioned to be concerned with this for some reason. We wish we knew — so far both the Perry and John Mayer camps are being mum on the situation. One thing is for sure: The only way she could troll us any harder is if she started wearing a fake baby bump.

Ellen and Portia don't need a ring to prove their love

Ellen DeGeneres is eager to put to rest rumours circulating in some tabloids that her marriage to Portia De Rossi is on the rocks. “The tabloids had a photo of Portia not wearing her wedding ring. She goes, ‘I didn’t wear it because when I ride horses and I’m holding the reins, it gives me a blister,’” DeGeneres explains to People magazine. “The truth is — and this is corny — I fall more in love with Portia all



Ellen DeGeneres

the time. I really do. She surprises me all the time. It’s what anyone experiences when you find that person that gets you.”

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Hey LaBeouf, why don't you #STARTCREATING your own stuff?

MELINDA TAUB

Metro World News in New York

Shia LaBeouf has been all over the tabloids and the blogs and the Twitter lately. But for those who don't follow celebrity gossip on any medium, Shia has them covered too — they just have to look up into the sky.

LaBeouf has taken to skywriting for the third time, hiring planes to write “#STARTCREATING” in the sky above Los Angeles, according to E! Online. His previous messages were “I am sorry Daniel Clowes” and “#STOPCREATING,” both in January.

It's great to have Shia's permission to start making stuff. I hope he follows his own advice, since he's never created anything in particular. LaBeouf's meltdown/art project/generous subsidy to L.A.'s skywriting industry began in December, when his short film, Howard Cantour,



com, was revealed to be a ripoff of a Daniel Clowes comic, Justin M. Damiano. Since then, he's tweeted a slew of plagiarized quotes and apologies, hired the aforementioned skywriters, and last week held an “art installation” in which he sat in a room with a paper bag over his head reading “I am not famous anymore” while weeping — which some would say was a ripoff of Marina Abramović's The Artist is Present.

In case you can't tell, I am heartily sick of this kid — he ripped an artist off, got caught, and he's been trying to reposition his screw-up as art ever since. I would rather see Justin Bieber get an Oscar than hear another word from LaBeouf on the subject.

Twitter



@ChloeGMoretz

strangest thing just happened to my phone it wouldn't take a charge so i did a full restart and bingo.. charging.. weird.



@NiallOfficial

First time we have all been together for a while now! lookin forward t seeing the lads ! #BRITS2014



@josswhedon

Stairs are so serious



Patrick Stewart

Patrick Stewart has a gay old time with Guardian gaffe

At least Patrick Stewart has a decent sense of humour. The former Star Trek: the Next Generation star was misidentified as gay by the Guardian in an article about X-Men co-star Ellen Page's recent coming out. “The third paragraph

ally said, ‘Some gay people, such as Sir Patrick Stewart, think Page's coming out speech is newsworthy.’ This should have read, ‘Some people, such as Sir Patrick Stewart,’ a statement from the newspaper read. Stewart, who married longtime girlfriend Sunny Ozell in September, took it in stride, posting to Twitter, “It makes for a nice change. At least I didn't wake up to the Internet telling me I was dead again.”

bug beauty

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The runway midway

The fashion industry's finest have flocked to New York and London these past two weeks as part of Fall/Winter 2014 Fashion Month. Before they pick up their passports and jet away on the Paris and Milan legs of the journey, here's a taste of what Metro's gurus of glam have witnessed from fashion's front lines thus far.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Tommy Hilfiger (NYC)

The first look? Surprise, surprise, it's plaid. An olive parka, check dress and hiking boots opens the lineup of rugged, outdoorsy looks. The vaguely vintage-flavoured duffle coats, shearling jackets, chunky sweaters, Fair Isle knits and fleece dresses have a sporty athleticism to them that imply Tommy's girls do more than sip hot chocolate inside a lodge.

Major trends: Blanket references in the form of dresses, skirts and coats.

What this will mean for your wardrobe: Durable, classic winter wear that really does marry fashion and function.



Marc by Marc Jacobs (NYC)

The autumn/winter '14 girl is all flamboyant sportiness, dressed for a club night in a mix of ninja and BMX gear. Plus all of the sneaker comebacks we've seen in the past year were rendered forgettable thanks to a single shoe in Crayola shades of red and blue that is part raver, part spaceman.

The major trends: Plays on volume — blanket-style wraps, layering and wide leg trousers.

What this will mean for your wardrobe: Judging by my social media feeds, the shoes were the most memorable takeaway from the show. The more "out there" the sneaker the better.

Bora Aksu (London)

After a handful of monochrome skirted looks, colour appears in the form of Barbie pink. Think Lolita-meets-Victorian-meets-plastic-fantastic. And get ready to embrace that horrible '90s sequin stretch fabric: it's back, sliced into jackets, waistlines and fishtail pencil skirts. Ponchos and capes are popular up top — only, "floatier" than we've seen them before. Here they're more like mosquito nets. Pretty ones, mind you.

The playlist: Lively flamenco with a Carla Bruni interlude.

The key trends: Pink, ponchos, A-line skirts



Issa (London)

The strength, and what unites this collection, with its varying motifs of stamped flowers, bulbous knits and lattice prints, is the size of it all. Everything is big, from the wafting, blanket-like coats that much of the audience is already wearing to the Balenciaga-esque rounded sleeves on outerwear and tops. My standout piece — the wackiest of all the wearable Issa fare — is a zigzag printed monochrome jacket with perfectly curved shoulders.

The major trends: Ponchos and oversized, rounded coats.

What this will mean for your wardrobe in six months' time: Silhouette is going to factor into your buying purchases more than usual.

Vivienne Westwood (London)

This show was about vintage Vivienne Westwood Red Label. Even the colour palette is true to the brand name, with a tongue-in-cheek heart-shaped suit. The looks were positively pared-down: a nostalgic retrospective of eras gone by with headscarves, roomy overcoats, and those ubiquitous Westwood cocktail dresses — all very commercially viable with enough of a dash of the Dame's kook.

The scene: Vivienne Westwood's faithful friends.

What this will mean for your wardrobe in six months' time: Granny chic with headscarves and oversized practical coats.



Trends Report

Bleached blonde eyebrows may seem odd, but the look was all over the runway at Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week this month and even on raunchy popstar Miley Cyrus. Go online to Trends Report to see which top designer opted for this runway look, which also had one reality TV star modeling a nipple-baring top.

- **Online.** Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetrolreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report



Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Kerry

Age: 27

Occupation: Co-founder, Rockford Peach

What she's wearing: Old pilots shearling coat I bought a couple years ago in Kensington (inspired by my Dad), old polo sweater that was cropped, All Saints

pants, Stuart Weitzman boots, vintage belt and bag.

Her inspiration:

I dress with instinct, which could very well start with the music that I wake up to. The truth is I like anything that has lived a little bit; clothes that tell a story or move me somehow, and a little oversize never hurt anyone.

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Stefano serves a cutlet above the rest

Cookbook of the Week

Effortless meals



Stefano Faita goes from the wildly popular TV show *In the Kitchen* with Stefano Faita to an easy-to-follow book of the same name. The collection includes Faita's favourite recipes (think Buttermilk Fried Chicken, Mango Cabbage Slaw, Cajun Home Fries and more) from the series as well as extra trips. The book covers everything from breakfast and dinner to snacks, salads, desserts and more. **METRO**

FLASH FOOD



From your fridge
to your table in
30 minutes or less

"Veal cutlets were in regular dinner rotation at home when I was young," writes Stefano Faita in his book *In the Kitchen with Stefano Faita*. "I was always so amazed at how quickly my mom made them and got them on the table — they cook up in no time."

"Serve your cutlets with a light side dish, such as sautéed cherry tomatoes (the recipe is right here!), or put a cutlet on a bun with some marinated artichokes. Yum!"

1. To make the Breaded Veal Cutlets: Prepare a breading station by arranging 3 shallow dishes or pie plates with the following: flour in the first; eggs beaten with milk in the second; and bread crumbs, Parmesan and herbs stirred together in the third.

2. Season veal with salt and pepper. Dredge cutlets first in

Ingredients

Breaded Veal Cutlets

- 1/2 cup (125 ml) all-purpose flour
 - 3 large eggs
 - 2 tbsp (30 ml) milk
 - 1 cup (250 ml) fresh or dry bread crumbs
 - 1/4 cup (60 ml) grated Parmesan cheese
 - 2 tsp (10 ml) chopped fresh herbs, such as sage or rosemary
 - 4 large veal cutlets, pounded 1/4 inch (5 mm) thick
 - Salt and freshly ground pepper
 - 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter
 - 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- ### Sautéed Cherry Tomatoes
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) butter
 - 1 1/2 lb (675 g) vine-ripened cherry tomatoes
 - 1 tsp (5 ml) sugar
 - Salt and freshly ground pepper
 - 1 tbsp (15 ml) each chopped fresh Italian parsley, marjoram, thyme

flour, then in egg mixture and lastly in bread crumb mixture.

3. In a large skillet over medium heat, melt butter with oil. When oil is hot, add cutlets and brown on each side, 3 to 5 minutes per side.



This recipe serves four. PHOTOS LEILA ASHTARI

4. While cutlets are cooking, make the Sautéed Cherry Tomatoes: In a large sauté pan, melt butter over medium-high heat. When butter is golden brown, add tomatoes. Sprinkle them with sugar and season with salt

and pepper. Increase heat to high and sauté tomatoes, stirring gently, until they start to wrinkle, about 5 minutes. Add the parsley, marjoram and thyme, mix well and remove from heat.

5. Serve cutlets with Sautéed Cherry Tomatoes.

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Hear your tunes in style

With so many music lovers downloading albums to their phones and mp3 players, there's no longer the need for large, bulky stereo systems to be displayed in the home. Want to give your latest download some big-time sound? Here's a selection of speakers that will suit any home-decor style.



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Be the life of the party in any room while getting quality acoustics and great design. This little picnic basket of sound can go from room to room and has won dozens of design awards. Bang & Olufsen's Beolit12, \$880, bangolufsen.com.



Add glam to any book case with crystal-encrusted bird speakers (also the perfect accompaniment for a perfume bottle collection in the bathroom). ChicBuds Crystal Fauvette Bird Speaker, \$46 each, bedbathandbeyond.ca.

Breakdancing not required, but bring the '80s back with iHome's rubber and metal Boombox Wireless Speaker, \$220, urbanoutfitters.com.



An old-time music centre that replicates a vintage airplane control panel. Records, tapes, CDs and mp3 capabilities; great for any dad. Innovative Technology Aviator Turntable Wooden Music Centre, \$200, thesource.ca.

Croon to your favourite tunes in reclaimed style that would look just as chic in a library as it would in a loft space. Gramophone iPad docking station with dry oak base, \$300, restorationhardware.com.



Surging Mooseheads dominate Islanders

QMJHL. Herd come out with guns blazing and cruise to fourth straight victory



ANDREW RANKIN
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

He was five minutes shy of a shutout when it was snatched away, but Kevin Darveau walked out of the Halifax Mooseheads' dressing room beaming, anyway.

In the end, the Herd's amiable backup goalie seemed genuinely happy just to get the win on Wednesday night.

"That's the main thing," he said with a laugh. "The boys were teasing me a little bit during the timeout before the end of the game, saying, 'Come on Darveau, get your shutout.'"

It wasn't in the cards, but Darveau and Co. faced off against an inferior opponent, and then responded with a dominating 5-1 victory over the Charlottetown Islanders before 7,565 Metro Centre fans.

"For us, we knew they were going to come out hard," said Darveau, who was solid making 25 saves, including a few spectacular ones, for his 10th victory of the season. "But we



The Islanders' Anthony Cortese, left, gives chase to Mooseheads forward Nikolaj Ehlers at the Halifax Metro Centre on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

answered and never stopped because that's our goal, every game we aim to build to be a better team for the playoffs. We did that tonight."

The Mooseheads, who outshot the Islanders 40-26, opened the scoring seven minutes into the contest. From there they would score four straight, until Bradley Kennedy finally responded for the Islanders late in the final frame.

Not surprisingly, the Herd's leading scorer Nikolaj Ehlers led the way with a pair of goals and assists, to extend his point

streak to four games (five goals and four assists). The Mooseheads' soft-spoken rookie defenceman Jacob Jacques quietly got in on the action, scoring his second goal of the season.

It came as sweet relief. "I just took a shot and it deflected in and I was so frigging happy," said Jacques. "After that, I just started playing with new confidence."

With the victory, the

Mooseheads extended their winning streak to four games, and remain in third place in league standings with a record of 39-18-0-3, six points out of the No. 1 spot.

Jonathan Drouin and Andrew Ryan rounded out the scoring for the Herd.

The Mooseheads are back in action at home on Friday against the Shawinigan Cataractes.

Quoted

"We're doing everything we can to be playing playoff hockey."

Mooseheads netminder Kevin Darveau

Women's hockey. Seasoned Canadians have tough task in final vs. U.S. speedsters

To win a fourth straight Olympic gold medal, the Canadian women's hockey team must leverage its big-game experience up front to overcome the superior speed of the United States.

Canada's dozen forwards have a combined 18 previous appearances at the Winter Olympics among them compared to seven among the American forwards.

On defence, previous Win-

ter Games experience is equal between the two countries. Both sides possess seasoned goaltenders.

Thursday's final at the Bolshoy Ice Dome is about executing in a vice of pressure for both countries.

The U.S. wants to reclaim the gold it won in 1998 and this year's team is young and relentless.

So it will be up to three-time gold medallists Caroline

Ouellette, Hayley Wickenheiser and Jayna Hefford, as well as third-time Olympians Meghan Agosta-Marciano and Gillian Apps to shepherd Canada through the defining moment or moments of the gold-medal game.

They are "great players who have been in an Olympics or two," coach Kevin Dineen said. "They've sat in this seat before."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AUS hockey

Huskies fall to Panthers in Game 1

In the end, it was a poor start that killed them.

The Saint Mary's Huskies couldn't recover from an early two-goal deficit, and fell 3-1 to the Prince Edward Island Panthers on Wednesday night, dropping the opening game of their best of three AUS hockey quarter-final matchup in Charlottetown.

The Panthers opened the scoring with a pair of goals inside of two minutes in the

opening frame, compliments of Chris Desousa and Mason Wilgosh.

Stephen Johnson finally got the Huskies on the board 7:53 into the middle frame. But it was too little too late. The Panthers would respond late in the period.

The Huskies outshot the home squad 29-23, but Wayne Savage proved to be up to the task between the pipes for the Panthers.

The Huskies will now have to regroup for Game 2 on Friday at the Halifax Forum.

METRO

Humph Day in Sochi

Women's bobsled.

Canadian duo successfully defends its title won in Vancouver

Kaillie Humphries arrived at the start house for her final bobsled run at the Sochi Games not knowing how much time she needed to make up to catch the leaders.

Her brakeman, Heather Moyse, knew but wasn't saying. She wanted her pilot to worry about her own run and not the clock.

"I just looked at her and I said, 'It's possible,'" Moyse said. "That's all Kaillie needed to know, that the gap wasn't closed but it was possible."

Humphries visualized the 17-turn track in her mind and set out to nail another consistent run. She delivered just that Wednesday night and it was enough to give them a second straight women's Olympic bobsled title, the first duo to achieve that goal.

"When I don't know times, I mean, ignorance is bliss," Humphries said.

The Canada 1 sled had a gap of 11-100ths of a second to close entering the final run. Moyse delivered with a strong push at the start, then Humphries took over from there.

Both were elated at the finish and satisfied knowing they did everything they could.

"For both of us to know we pushed the hardest we could have possibly pushed, I drove the track the very best that I knew how, when we got out of the sled on that fourth run both her and I — without even having to really say anything — knew that we had done



Canada's Kaillie Humphries, left, and Heather Moyse celebrate winning the gold medal in women's bobsled at the Sochi Winter Olympics on Wednesday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Winning gold is amazing, but walking away satisfied is better. After the third run I knew that if we did the business we could be on top."

Kaillie Humphries on overcoming a time deficit to win the women's bobsled.

everything in our power," Humphries said.

With at least a silver locked up, they had a nervous two-minute wait in the finish area as Elana Meyers and Lauryn Williams completed their final

run.

"I never wish bad on people but I was thinking, 'Just make a few mistakes, please,'" Humphries said.

The pressure seemed to get to the Americans, who had

a few wobbles down the Sanki Sliding Center track and came up one-10th of a second short.

It would be gold once again for the Canadians, who were underdogs when they won at the Vancouver Games four years ago but favourites this time around.

Humphries, from Calgary, and Moyse, from Summerside, P.E.I., finished with a four-run

time of three minutes 50.61 seconds. Meyers and Williams were second in 3:50.71.

The United States also won bronze, with Jamie Greubel and Aja Evans finishing a full second off the lead in 3:51.61.

Edmonton's Jenny Ciochetti and Chelsea Valois of Zenon Park, Sask., were 13th in the Canada 2 sled in 3:54.49. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Figure skating

Queen Yuna rules short program

The woman known to her adoring fans as "Queen Yuna" doesn't appear ready to give up her throne any time soon.

Defending Olympic champion Kim Yuna lived up to her nickname at the Sochi Olympics, winning the short program Wednesday — a night that saw tiny Russian teenager Julia Lipnitskaia crumble under the pressure of her home country, and two Canadians advance to Thursday's free skate.

Kim scored 74.92 points for her exquisite short program to Send in the Clowns. She is trying to become the first singles skater to win back-to-back Olympic titles since Katarina Witt (1984 and 1988).

A Russian is nipping at Kim's heels — but not Lipnitskaia.

Adelina Sotnikova of Russia was second with 74.64 points, while Italy's Carolina Kostner was third with 74.12.

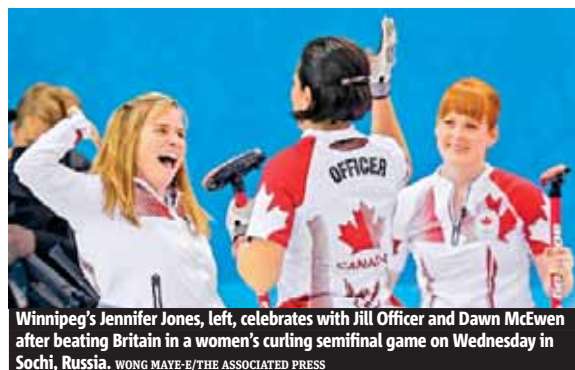
Kaetlyn Osmond of Marystown, N.L., finished 13th, while Gabrielle Daleman of Newmarket, Ont., was 19th, good enough for both to advance to the free skate.

Lipnitskaia, who took the ice to chants of "Ju-li-a!" in the packed Iceberg Skating Palace, fell on her triple flip and finished fifth with 65.23. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Kim Yuna THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jones pushing for Olympic clean sweep



Winnipeg's Jennifer Jones, left, celebrates with Jill Officer and Dawn McEwen after beating Britain in a women's curling semifinal game on Wednesday in Sochi, Russia. WONG MAYE-E/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jennifer Jones jumped for joy, her arms and broom triumphantly in the air. And why not?

The Winnipeg skip, wearing gold eye shadow, swept into the Olympic gold medal curling game with a string of late, big-money shots Wednesday to edge Britain 6-4 and improve her record at the Ice Cube Curling Center to 10-0.

Jones, third Kaitlyn Lawes, second Jill Officer and lead Dawn McEwen stepped up when it mattered to dispose of 2013 world champion Eve Muirhead in an edge-of-your-

Double-gold hope

Canada is chasing double curling gold. Brad Jacobs' team advanced to the men's championship game with a 10-6 win over China's Rui Liu in the semifinals Wednesday.

- Canada must elbow aside two-time world champion David Murdoch of Britain for gold and will start Friday's game with hammer.

seat Olympic semifinal.

"I'm so proud of us," Jones said. "I thought we came out and played lights out today."

Now only Sweden's Margaretha Sigfridsson stands in the

way of the Jones juggernaut, which is assured of at least silver.

"It's crazy to think that we're going to be on that podium, I'm not going to lie," said

a smiling Jones, who clapped her hands in celebration as she arrived to talk to reporters.

"It was an emotional win. We've dreamed of this since we were little girls.... We're going to be on that podium no matter what. Nobody can ever take that away from us. It's pretty exciting and something we're going to celebrate, but right now we're focused on trying to play well (Thursday)."

Sweden earned a 7-5 decision over Switzerland (5-4) in the other semifinal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hey Yzerman, 'you're lucky'

Goalier than thou.

Lightning prospect stands on his head in front of future GM as Latvians almost slay Goliath in Sochi

As Kristers Gudlevskis turned aside shot after shot, Sidney Crosby and his teammates wondered what it would take to beat the Latvian goaltender.

"Besides picking the puck up and throwing it in the net, what could you tell someone to do in those situations?" Crosby said.

Team Canada didn't quite have to resort to that, surviving a historic upset bid by Latvia with a 2-1 win in the quarter-finals of the Olympics on the strength of a late power-play goal by Shea Weber.

Despite Gudlevskis making 55 saves on 57 shots, coach Mike Babcock didn't sense any uneasiness on his bench. It's his hope that being in a tight, frustrating game will help Canada as it advances to face the rival Americans in the semifinals Friday.

"We just thought if we kept doing it, we'd get our chances, we'd get a break, we'd score a goal," Babcock said. "Did I want to win 7-1? Absolutely. Do I think it's better for my team that we won the way we did? For sure."

The next one looks tougher on paper than any of Canada's first four games in Sochi. At first glance, a matchup against 11th-seeded Latvia didn't seem like it would be much of a test for the gold-medal favourites.

Canada, Babcock insisted, did not take Latvia lightly. Watching coach Ted Nolan's group eliminate Switzerland should have been enough of a wake-up call.

Still, it was hard to expect this. After Patrick Sharp gave Canada a lead at the 13:37 mark of the first period, it looked like Gudlevskis



Game of his life



"We were disappointed, because we tried to make

a miracle today and we just couldn't do it."

Latvia's Kristers Gudlevskis, who stopped 55 shots and gave hockey fans across Canada cause for major concern on Wednesday afternoon.

Questionable call

C'mon ref!

It looked like Canada took the lead 8:27 into the third, but a controversial call kept it 1-1. Jonathan Toews and Patrick Marleau got the puck to the goal-line and almost over, but Latvia defenceman Kristaps Sotnieks gloved it to keep it out.

The ruling was that the puck did not fully cross the line, and Canada did not get a penalty shot because that cannot be awarded on review.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Americans up next



"They're obviously the favourite coming into the tournament, and we've opened up a lot of eyes with our play, but we have more in the tank to give and to show."

Max Pacioretty on the looming rematch of the 2010 gold-medal game with Canada. Pacioretty's Americans notched a 5-2 win over the Czech Republic on Wednesday. Canada and the U.S. meet in the semifinal on Friday.

wouldn't get beat again and the frustration crept in.

"It can get to you, I think, a little bit," winger Patrick Marleau said. "But you just got to keep persisting and think that next one's going to go in."

It didn't help that most of the game elapsed with a tie score after Lauris Darzins got a breakaway and beat Carey Price two minutes after Sharp's goal. And it didn't help that Canada played almost two full periods without John Tavares, who was hit by Arturs Kulda and is out for the rest of the tournament with a knee injury.

A controversial no-goal call in the third period that could have led to a Canadian penalty shot only added to the drama.

All the while, Canada had Gudlevskis and the Latvians under siege but couldn't break

through. It's one thing to squeeze the sticks a little too tight, but another one altogether to have a goalie looking like a brick wall.

"Coming into this tournament we talked about facing adversity," defenceman Duncan Keith said. "There was a little bit there throughout this game. We didn't want to get frustrated with the score being tied."

Told he scared the entire country of Canada on Wednesday night, Gudlevskis said: "I hope so." Asked what he'd say to Team Canada executive director and Lightning general manager Steve Yzerman, the 21-year-old responded: "You're lucky."

In Nolan's eyes, Canada was lucky to take the lead at 13:06 of the third after a slashing penalty was called on Geor-

Cross-border semi No. 2



"I think the Russian team will win."

Marts making a prediction after his team's 5-0 win over Slovenia, but before the Russia-Finland quarter-final. Finland coach Erkki Westerlund said "no comment" when asked for his reaction to what Marts said, and Finn forward Olli Jokinen added: "I don't really care." The Scandinavian rivals meet in the semifinals Friday.

gijis Pujacs. But Babcock saw it more as the following-through on a game plan.

"We just thought we were going to win," he said. "We just talked about being patient and staying the course, not getting in a hurry, not forcing anything. If we did that we thought we'd be fine, and in the end we were."

That was one lesson Canada gleaned from this scare and almost joining the 2002 Swedish team that lost to Belarus in Salt Lake City in an infamous chapter of the Olympic history books: Winning matters more at this stage than how it happens.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRUCE BENNETT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'You never know'

Russian hopes Finn-ished

After Russia's men's hockey loss in the quarter-finals to Finland, most of Russia's players rushed through a mixed zone with TV cameras and reporters without stopping, waving off requests to verbalize their disappointment in losing their medal chances in the Sochi Games.

The players who did stop were brief. And Finland, not surprisingly, had a little more to say, with many sentiments summed up by forward Teemu Selanne:

"The experts are wrong many times — and I love it."

Still, as happy as the Finns were, they did show some sympathy for a Russian team that was carrying such high expectations.

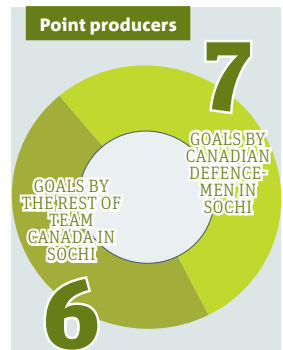
Selanne: "I'm a little bit sad also for them. Obviously, they had a big dream to win the gold medal here and then it doesn't work so it's kind of disappointing in many ways because that would be a great story. But again, it's proving to the hockey world that you never know."

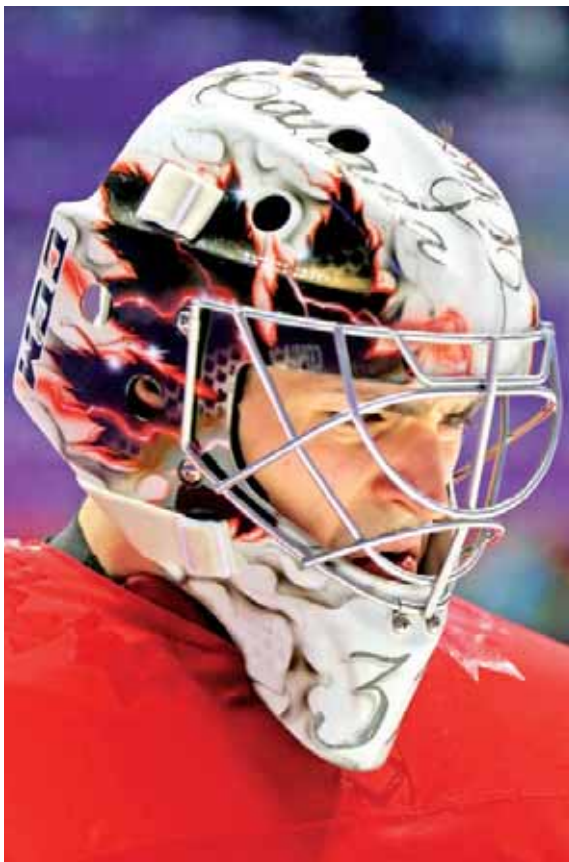
Russia's Alex Ovechkin only had this to say: "No emotion right now."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Russian hockey fans at the end of Russia's loss to Finland on Wednesday in Sochi. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Canadiens in Montreal will be watching teammates Carey Price and Max Pacioretty when Canada takes on the U.S. Friday. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Canadiens keep an eye on Sochi as they return to ice

NHL. Well-rested Habs begin prep for playoff run as Price, Pacioretty prepare to do battle

While the top stars had the hockey world's attention in Sochi, it was back to work on Wednesday for the NHL players who were left behind.

Montreal Canadiens defenceman Josh Gorges said it felt like the first day of training camp as the team resumed on-ice practice after a 10-day break.

"The guys were excited to see each other and talk about how their trips were and how the time off was and what they did," said Gorges.

Many players went south on vacation and came back tanned, but Gorges said he spent the break quietly with his wife.

He said it was a welcome relief from a busier than usual NHL schedule, with teams play-

ing more back-to-back games to fit the 82-game season around the Olympic pause.

"Usually in an Olympic year the schedule is condensed, so you're playing a lot more games in a shorter period of time, so you need this little break in between," he said. "It's long, but you roll with it."

The Canadiens had seven players in Sochi, including both of their goalies — Canada's Carey Price and Slovakia's Peter Budaj.

So former Canadiens goalie Jocelyn Thibault and former American Hockey League net-minder Martin Houle suited up for the practice. They also brought in former defenceman Patrice Brisebois, conditioning coach Pierre Allard and scouting co-ordinator Ken Morin to have a full complement of players.

Others away at the Olympics were Russian defencemen Andrei Markov and Alexei Emelin, Canadian counterpart P.K. Subban, U.S. winger Max

Pacioretty and Czech centre Tomas Plekanec.

Montreal head coach Michel Therrien was not at the skate, so it was unclear whether players who made it to the medal games would get extra time off.

At the Canadiens' practice facility, the first few days will be used to work on conditioning and get reacquainted with skating and handling the puck.

The break also allowed some injuries to heal.

Winger Travis Moen missed Montreal's last two games before the break with what the team called a lower-body injury, but returned feeling better. He hopes to be ready when play resumes with a visit next Wednesday from Canadian Olympic head coach Mike Babcock and the Detroit Red Wings.

Alex Galchenyuk was also back skating with his teammates for the first time since he fractured his right hand, missing 15 games. The forward also hopes to be ready to play.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Professional fans

The practice started 10 minutes late as players watched Canada's surprisingly tight battle with Latvia at the Olympics. They took the ice within seconds of Shea Weber's game-winning goal in the third period, confident that Canada would close out the 2-1 victory.

- "It's exciting to watch," said Gorges, a Kelowna, B.C., native. "You knew Canada was just waiting for an opportunity to finally put one in."

- Canada's Olympic semi-final will be a showdown with the U.S. on Friday, which could make for some lively banter in the Canadiens room as Price goes up against Pacioretty.

Biathlon

Bjoerndalen sets new winter medal mark with 13

In a fitting way to mark becoming the most decorated Winter Olympian ever, Ole Einar Bjoerndalen ensured his record 13th medal was gold Wednesday when he helped Norway win the first Olympic mixed relay in biathlon.

Bjoerndalen broke the total medals record he previously shared with retired cross-country skier great Bjoern Daehlie, and also matched the fellow Norwegian's mark of eight golds. Bjoerndalen won gold earlier at the Sochi Olympics in the men's sprint biathlon.

Daehlie won eight gold, four silver and no bronze medals; Bjoerndalen's haul is now 8-4-1.

The 40-year-old Bjoerndalen can win another medal in the last men's biathlon event in Sochi, the 4x7.5K relay on Saturday.

Norway's victory came one day after Bjoerndalen missed out on a medal chance in the 15K mass start event, when he was in fourth position before missing four targets in his final shooting. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Popping the question. Sens pair fill Sochi void with another pressure situation

Bobby Ryan made the most of his Olympic break after he was left off Team USA.

The Ottawa Senators winger proposed to longtime girlfriend Danielle Rhodes on the Eiffel Tower while on vacation in Paris.

"It was just a quick 15-second, normal proposal," said Ryan. "She said yes and then it was so windy we had to get off anyway because it was too cold to stay up there."

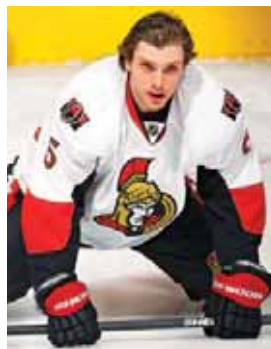
Ryan said the most nerve-racking part of the proposal was getting the ring through security without Rhodes seeing it.

"I had to sneak it through security and tuck it in my scarf when we were going through."

Ryan had a little help from teammate Jason Spezza to help ensure the proposal was a surprise. Ryan had given the ring to Spezza for safekeeping and to ensure Rhodes didn't come across it.

"I was the ring bearer for a while," said Spezza with a laugh. "It was good to give it back. Took the pressure off me from losing it."

Now that the ring has been given, Ryan said his work is done and he will let his fiancée deal with the wedding details.



Senators winger Bobby Ryan
CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

"I'm out now," said Ryan laughing. "I told her once I handed that over, 'The rest is on you; just tell me when and where to be.'"

Ryan was not the only one to pop the question as Cory Conacher also proposed to girlfriend Shaynen Chadwick while in Turks and Caicos.

"I did it on the beach and then went for a nice dinner afterwards," said Conacher. "I think she was surprised because I did it early in the trip and she wasn't expecting that. It was a great night for us."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEDALS

Nation	G	S	B	Tot.
United States of America	7	5	11	23
Russian Federation	6	9	7	22
Netherlands	6	7	9	22
Norway	9	4	7	20
Canada	5	9	4	18
Germany	8	3	4	15

WHAT CANADA DID

WEDNESDAY

ALPINE SKIING

Men's Giant Slalom — Trevor Philp of Calgary was the top Canadian after the two runs, placing 25th (two minutes 49.55 seconds, +4.26 seconds). Phil Brown of Toronto was 29th (2:49.91) and Morgan Priddy of Whistler, B.C., was 33rd (2:51.96).

BIATHLON

2x6km Women + 2x7.5 km Men Mixed Relay — The Canadian team of Megan Imrie (Falcon Lake, Man.), Rosanna Crawford (Canmore, Alta.), Brendan Green (Hay River, N.W.T.) and Scott Perras (Regina), finished 12th with a time of one hour, 13 minutes and 27.7 seconds, four minutes and 10.7 seconds behind gold medalist Norway.

BOBSLEIGH

Women's — Kaillie Humphries (Calgary) and Heather Moyse (Summerside, P.E.I.), successfully defended their gold medal with a four-run time of three minutes 50.61 seconds, erasing a 0.23 deficit going into the final two runs to beat United States 1 by a tenth-of-a-second. Jennifer Ciochetti (Edmonton) and Chelsea Valois (Zenon Park, Sask.) placed 13th (3:54.49).

CROSS-COUNTRY

Ladies' Team Sprint Classic Semifinal — Daria Galazova (Banff, Alta.) and Perianne Jones (Almonte, Ont.) were fifth out of the nine teams in their group and did not advance.

Men's Team Sprint Classic Semifinals — Alex Harvey (St. Ferreol-les-Neiges, Que.) and Devon Kershaw (Sudbury, Ont.) were sixth out of 11 teams in their group and did not advance.

CURLING

Women's Semifinal — Canada defeated Great Britain 6-4 and plays Sweden in the gold medal match on Thursday.

Men's Semifinal — Canada defeated China 10-6 and will face Great Britain for the gold medal on Friday.

FIGURE SKATING

Ladies Short Program — Kaetlyn Osmond (Sherwood Park, Alta.) placed 13th with 56.18 points and Gabrielle Daleman (Newmarket, Ont.) was 19th with 52.61 going into Thursday's free program.

ICE HOCKEY

Men's Quarter-final — Canada defeated Latvia 2-1 and will play the U.S. in the semifinal game on Friday.

SNOWBOARD

Ladies' Parallel Giant Slalom — Marianne Leeson (Burlington, Ont.) placed 5th overall, Caroline Calve (Aylmer, Que.) took 6th and Ariane Lavigne (Lac-Supérieur, Que.) was 8th. Each lost their quarter-final race.

Men's Parallel Giant Slalom — Defending gold medalist Jasey Jay Anderson, of Mont-Tremblant, Que., and Matt Morison of Burketon, Ont., made it through qualifying but were eliminated in the next round. Michael Lambert of Toronto failed to make it through qualifying. Anderson placed 14th overall, Morison 15th and Lambert 27th.

SPEED SKATING

Ladies' 5000 m — Ivanie Blondin of Ottawa placed 14th overall with a time of seven minutes 20.10 seconds, 28.56 seconds behind gold medalist Martina Sablikova of the Czech Republic.

CURLING

At Sochi, Russia
All Times Eastern

MEN

Wednesday's results

SEMIFINALS

Canada 10 China 6

Britain 6 Sweden 5

Tuesday's results

TIEBREAKER

Britain 6 Norway 5

Friday's games

BRONZE MEDAL

Sweden vs. China, 3:30 a.m.

GOLD MEDAL

Britain vs. Canada, 8:30 a.m.

WOMEN

Wednesday's results

SEMIFINALS

Canada 6 Britain 4

Sweden 7 Switzerland 5

Thursday's games

BRONZE MEDAL

Britain vs. Switzerland, 3:30 a.m.

GOLD MEDAL

Canada vs. Sweden, 8:30 a.m.

HOCKEY

All times Eastern

MEN

Wednesday's results

QUARTERFINALS

Canada 2 Latvia 1

Sweden 5 Slovenia 0

Finland 3 Russia 1

United States 5 Czech Republic 2

Friday's games

SEMIFINALS

Sweden at Finland, 7 a.m.

Canada at United States, 12 p.m.

Saturday's game

BRONZE MEDAL GAME

Semifinal losers, 10 a.m.

Sunday's game

GOLD MEDAL GAME

Semifinal winners, 7 a.m.

CANADA 2, LATVIA 1

First Period

1. Canada, Sharp 1 (Nash) 13:37.

2. Latvia, Darzins 1 (Kulda, Sprukts) 15:41.

Penalties — Sharp Cda (tripping) 6:18, Keith Cda (broken stick) 16:02.

Second Period

— No Scoring.

Penalties — Girgensons Lat (slashing) 5:37, St. Louis Cda (slashing) 10:21, Ozolinsh Lat (high-sticking) 19:33.

Third Period

3. Canada, Weber 1 (Doughty, Toews) 13:06 (pp).

Penalties — Pujacs Lat (slashing) 11:09.

Shots

Latvia 6 5 5—16

Canada 16 19 22—57

Goal — Latvia: Gudlevskis (L); Canada: Price (W). **Power plays (goal-chances)** — Latvia: 0-3; Canada: 1-3.

Referees — Tim Peel, Jyri Ronn. **Linesmen** — Brad Kovachik, Sakari Suominen.

Attendance — 9,825 at Sochi, Russia.

WOMEN

Thursday's games

BRONZE MEDAL GAME

Switzerland at Sweden, 7 a.m.

GOLD MEDAL GAME

Canada at United States, 12 p.m.

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

There are a lot of things you need to consider, things that may be of benefit to you in the not too distant future, so don't waste your time socializing when you should be thinking.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Aim to make new friends over the next 24 hours, especially with people whose interests are in some way out of the ordinary. It's not true that Taurus is old-fashioned. In fact, you can be a bit of a rebel.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You will come under pressure today, especially at work where someone in a position of authority will do their best to make life miserable for you. Stay cool and don't let them provoke you.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

It is time to move on, with no regrets, no backward glances and no promises that if things don't work out you can always go back. Draw a line in the sand, step across it and embrace the new you.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

It will pay you to be ruthless today, especially when dealing with people who always seem to get more out of your relationship than you. Look tough, talk tough and, when the time comes, act tough too.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

It may seem as if you're dancing to everyone's tune. Why is that bad? Sometimes it's nice to sit back and let others worry about where to go and what to do next.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Stop worrying about all the little things that may or may not be going wrong and concentrate on the one big thing you would most like to go right. Focus your mind power in a single direction.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Put your own interests first. The Sun in Pisces is giving you a boost of confidence, so make the most of it and make sure everyone knows where you are coming from and what you intend to do.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

As the Sun is moving through the domestic area of your chart it will pay you to focus more on family members than on yourself or your work.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Let people know what is on your mind today. If you keep your thoughts to yourself you will not only feel isolated but you will miss out on a chance to influence the great debate.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Limit spending to essentials today. You know how easy it is to reach into your pocket and find cash for this or that but if you do that now you may have nothing left for the weekend.

Pisces

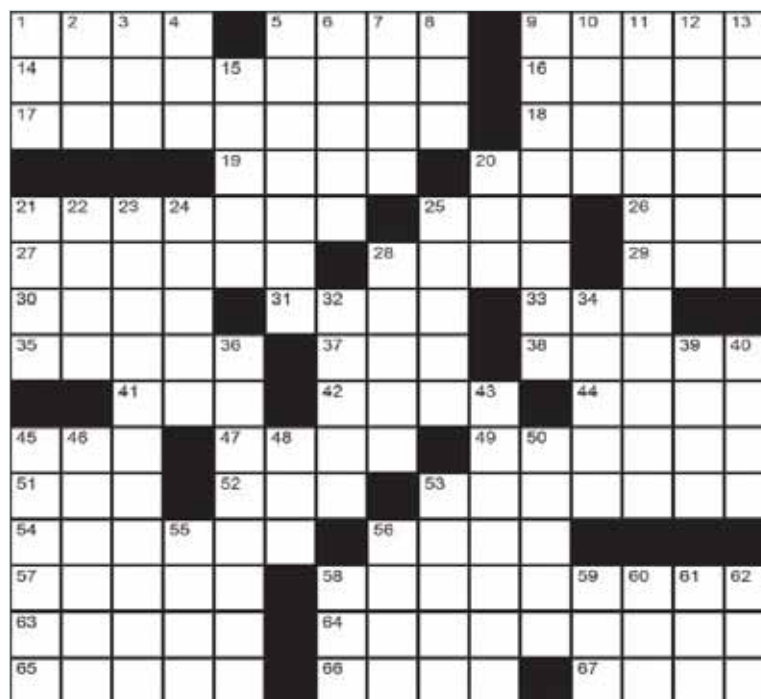
Feb. 20 - March 20

Make the most of the Sun in your sign to do something out of the ordinary, something that makes the world sit up and take notice. Don't worry that what you do may be seen as "controversial" — the more people you offend the better. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

- SOCHI 2014 - Ice Hockey venue, Bolshoy Ice ___
- Military cap
- Derek & The Dominos song
- Inuit language
- Dainty cases
- Contemporary creation: 2 wds.
- SOCHI 2014 - Rus-Ski ___ Ski Jumping Center
- SOCHI 2014 - 'I' of IOC [abbr.]
- "You Needed Me" bit: "___ a tear..."
- Fifty Shades of Grey novelist, ___
- Ford product
- See, in Dutch
- Author, ___ May Alcott
- ___ fide
- Elves.
- 17th-century sailor, Captain ___
- Unique
- Caesar's 1051
- Choler
- Fire: French
- Canadian guitarist renowned for Mediterranean music
- Time
- Fruit-filled pastry
- Singer Mr. Cruz
- Seed holder
- Search
- Actor Mr. Hauer
- Pre-afternoon hrs.



- ___ excellence
- Go to a restaurant: 2 wds.
- Relishes: 2 wds.
- Examination
- "That was ___!" (I had fun!)
- Body of water for Saint Petersburg, Russia: 2 wds.

- "Do you get the birthday ___ sent?"
- "We Were Born to Glory" Canadian singer/songwriter: 2 wds.
- Shakira album: 'Donde ___ los Ladrones?'
- Formal gr.

- Leave out
- Faint
- Yoko's surname
- Soaked soil
- Barely get by
- Actor Greg
- Les ___-Unis (United States, in French)
- Knitting stitch

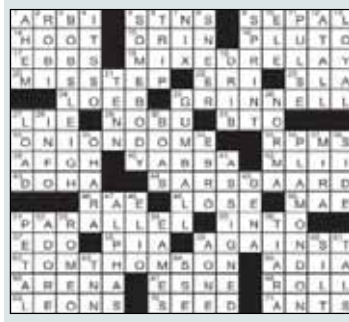
- Addams Family relative
- Painful 'pin' problem: 2 wds.
- 'Origin' suffix
- Doctor played by Omar Sharif: 2 wds.
- Appreciate something: 2 wds.
- Digressions

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

- Pares
- Sir McKellen link
- "Hot in Cleveland" role
- Meat cut
- SOCHI 2014 - Figure Skating, for example: 2 wds.
- Helpful human
- Heart: French
- Crack
- Following
- Coffee order
- Boney M. disco hit
- Stead
- ___ cloud, as per Astronomy
- Soap opera star Mr. Rogers
- Royal residence
- "Mutual of ___ Wild Kingdom"
- The Raven writer's monogram
- Up to
- Quebec's flag symbol, Fleur-___ [var. sp.]
- Pop
- Artsy spot in New Mexico
- Undergarment
- Mountain basin
- "...or ___ thought."
- Dawn goddess
- Promos

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

9	6	4	9	7	2	5	8	1
5	9	1	6	8	3	7	4	2
8	7	2	5	4	1	9	3	6
9	2	8	3	6	5	4	1	7
7	1	5	4	2	9	3	6	8
4	3	6	8	1	7	2	9	5
1	5	3	2	9	6	8	7	4
6	4	9	7	5	8	1	2	3
2	8	7	1	3	4	6	5	9

2				3	9	7		
	5			1	3	2		
4			5				6	
				5		1	8	
		3			5			
5	7			2				
1					8			2
	8	5		6			4	
	9	2	7					1



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